REMARKS

The Amendments

Applicants cancel Claims 27-31.

Claim 1 is amended to recite "A method of treatment of an existing human papillomavirus (HPV) infection comprising: administering a therapeutic vaccine comprising PV VLPs selected from the group consisiting of PV L1 VLPs and PV L1/L2 VLPs to a patient suffering from the PV infection characterized in that said therapeutic vaccine excludes PV E protein." Support for the amendment is found, for example, in Claim 1 as originally filed; page 7, line 15 to page 8, line 7 which indicates the treatment is therapeutic and what is administered is a vaccine; and, page 18, lines 29-30 which disclose that some VLPs do not comprise protein E.

Claim 5 is amended to recite "HPV 6 and HPV 11". Support for the amendment is found, for example, in Claim 5 as originally filed.

Claim 11 is amended to recite "the concentration of PV VLPs administered to the patient is 0.5-20 μg". Support for the amendment is found, for example, in Claim 11 as originally filed.

Claim 13 is amended to recite "The method according to Claim 1, wherein dosages of PV VLPs are given 3-6 times over a period of 8-1 6 weeks". Support for the amendment is found, for example, in Claims 1 and 11-13 (the first Claim 13) as originally filed.

Claim 14 is amended to recite "The method according to Claim 1, wherein dosages of PV VLPs are given 3-6 times over a period of 2-4 weeks". Support for the amendment is found, for example, in Claim 1, 11 and 14 as originally filed.

Claim 32 is amended to recite "the VLPs excludes adjuvant". Support for the amendment is found, for example, in Claim 13 (the second Claim 13) as originally filed.

Support for new Claim 33 is found, for example, in Claims 1 and 6 as originally filed

No new matter is added in any of the above amendments and the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the amendments.

Response

In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicant hereby elects the invention of Group I (Claims 1-5, 11-14 and 29-33) with traverse. Further, Applicants select HPV6 for

further examination with traverse.

The Examiner asserts that the inventions listed as Groups I-VI do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because they lack the same or corresponding special technical features in that WO 98/10790 (Gupta, et al.) allegedly teaches the invention being claimed. Applicants respectfully contend that amended Claim 1 recite "said therapeutic vaccine **excludes PV E protein**". Gupta, et al. disclose an immunogenic composition comprising PV-like particles comprised of recombinant PV L proteins **mixed with recombinant PV early proteins** (see Abstract, page 4, lines 2-4 and 7-9). Since Gupta, et al. only disclose recombinant PV L proteins mixed with recombinant PV early proteins, the claimed invention of Claim 1 is not known in the prior art as alleged by the Examiner. The special technical feature of the present application is the use of the therapeutic vaccine excluding PV E protein. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw this restriction requirement.

Regarding the Examiner's identification of elements within Group I, Applicants contend that HPV 6, 11, 34, 39, 41-44 and 51-55 are all human papillomaviruses and constitute a single genus of inventions and that a search of all would not be unduly burdensome. Scientifically, all human papillomavirus species belong to the Genus Papillomavirus.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (650) 463-8109.

Respectfully submitted,

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